

I was also extremely pleased to note during July an increase in *Strymonidia w-album* Knoch feeding on nearby privet in quantity.—
DAVID BROWN, 25 Charlecote, nr. Warwick.

CONTINUED SURVIVAL OF COENONYMPHA TULLIA AB. PHILOXENUS (LEP. SATYRIDAE).—During the past two summers Bob Craske and myself have visited the well-known colony of this butterfly on Fenn's Moss south of Whitchurch in Shropshire. This moss supports the most southerly colony of this insect in the British Isles and the form of *philoxenus* is peculiar to this area, differing materially from that found further north.

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It is therefore a matter of concern that no apparent effective steps are being taken to ensure its continued preservation.

Because of the difficulty of access, our visits have admittedly been confined to the southern part of the moss, where a good deal of piecemeal peat extraction is taking place—This is accompanied each spring by the indiscriminate and uncontrolled burning by peat cutters of large areas of the moss—The excuse for the burning is that it assists the extraction of the peat but the areas destroyed in this process have very little relation to this requirement. On both our visits we had ample evidence of the destructiveness of this policy and this year, apart from a few strays, this butterfly was virtually confined, in the southern part of the moss, to a very restricted area of a few acres that had escaped burning for a number of years.

To make matters worse, the existence of this butterfly is further threatened by a new development, because we were told, on our last visit, that a company had acquired the peat cutting rights of the whole of the centre of the moss and installing machinery for cutting and extraction.

With this general destruction of its habitat, the future of this attractive insect looks gloomy indeed. It is therefore hoped that local public bodies that are interested in conservation will take up its cause and prevent this most interesting colony from following others in the mid-lands to extinction.

MAJOR-GENERAL C. G. LIPSCOMB, C.B., D.S.O.

IMMIGRATION REPORTS OF DANAUS PLEXIPPUS L. (MONARCH BUTTERFLY), DURING OCTOBER.—Mr. L Hugh Newman has advised me that the B.B.C., a member of whose "Country Parliament" team he was, that they have received the following letters reporting sightings of the Monarch Butterfly during the early part of October:

"We had ten of these foreign butterflies about which a news-reader spoke one evening this week. They were on a large clump of michaelmas daisies on a sunny afternoon about a fortnight ago (i.e. 6th October). With them, and dwarfed by them, were some red admirals. We were so intrigued by the strangers that we stayed watching them for quite ten

minutes. We tried to identify them from a rather elementary book, but were unable to do so. We thought that they were unusual by both size and marking, but did not, of course, know how unusual. We wish we had photographed them and feel distinctly honoured by their visit now that we know what they were."—MARGARET COLEMAN, 114 Monmouth Road, Dorchester, Dorset.

"I spotted two magnificent butterflies on my michaelmas daisies, first attracted by their great size, 4 ins wing span, and their unusually brilliant colouring . . . " (post card dated 18th October 1968).—Mr L. DENNYS, 5 Stantons Row, Tremar Coombe, St. Cleer, Liskeard, Cornwall.

"I understand you require information regarding the Milkweed butterfly. Whilst on a stroll in this locality I spotted one and was able to catch it. The butterfly is a female with a wing span of four inches. Date caught, October 13, 1968. I hope this is of some value."—R. SMITH, 33 St. James' Road, Bexhill on Sea, Sussex.

I understand that a specimen has been received from Cornwall by the British Museum, and will be duly reported officially, and Mr. A. H. Sperring informs me that he saw a specimen at Seaford, Sussex on 13th October, which will be reported in the Proceedings of the British Entomological and Natural History Society.

It would seem that this is a genuine immigration, for bird watchers have reported several North American species from the Scillies and along the South Coast.

I will be most pleased to receive any further reports of captures or sightings.—Ed.